

## VS Guidance 13406.3

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### Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Testing for Imported Horses at Approved Quarantine Facilities

#### 1. Purpose and Background

This document outlines procedures for testing imported horses for permanent entry from regions which the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) considers affected with CEM as well as the approval criteria for CEM quarantine facilities.

This guidance document represents the Agency's position on this topic and is intended solely as guidance. It does not have the force and effect of law, does not create, or confer any rights for or on any person, and does not bind the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the public. Language suggesting that this guidance is mandatory (e.g., "shall," "must," "required," or "requirement") should not be construed as binding unless the terms quote from a statutory or regulatory requirement. The information this document contains may be made available to the public. While this document provides guidance for users outside APHIS, APHIS employees may not deviate from the directions provided herein without appropriate justification and supervisory concurrence.

#### 2. Document Status

A. Review date: 11/22/2026.

B. This document replaces Veterinary Services (VS) Guidance 13406.2, which is canceled.

#### 3. Reason for Reissuance

VS updated this document to reflect its reorganization and refinement of field practices.

#### 4. Authority and References

A. Authorities (*Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR)):

[7 CFR 371.4](#)

[9 CFR 93.300](#)

[9 CFR 93.301](#)

B. References

[Laboratories approved to conduct CEM tests.](#)

[VS Guidance 15202, Approval and Requirements for Laboratories to Conduct Tests for Contagious Equine Metritis](#)

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### C. Definitions

- 1) Contagious equine metritis (CEM): A venereal disease of horses caused by *Taylorella equigenitalis*, a Gram-negative coccobacillus.
- 2) Detergent (mild): A water-soluble cleansing agent that combines with impurities and dirt to make them miscible and which is more effective at removing fine dirt particles than soap when dissolved in water.
- 3) Disinfectant: A solution or product prepared at such a concentration to be bactericidal or bacteriostatic, and which does not cause tissue inflammation or irritation. This includes any solution that has been demonstrated to be bactericidal or bacteriostatic against *Taylorella equigenitalis*.
- 4) Equids: Horses, asses, mules, and zebras.
- 5) Facility: A building or designated area specifically approved for VS-mandated CEM quarantine and testing.
- 6) National CEM Coordinator: A VS Veterinary Medical Officer who oversees activities and duties of State CEM Coordinators. The National Coordinator prepares necessary documentation and reviews data submitted monthly from State CEM Coordinators.
- 7) State Animal Health Official (SAHO): A State Veterinarian or State Animal Health Technician.
- 8) State CEM Coordinator: A SAHO or a VS official who oversees operations at State-approved CEM quarantine facilities. The State Coordinator is responsible for inspecting CEM quarantine facilities and monthly record keeping/reporting.
- 9) Test mare: A mare designated for testing stallions for CEM.
- 10) VS official: A full-time salaried employee who represents VS in the capacity of veterinary medical officer or animal health technician.

### 5. Audience

VS employees, other Federal and State agencies, and members of the public.

### 6. Guidance

#### A. General

- 1) The regulations at [9 CFR 93.301\(c\)](#) contain provisions for importing horses for permanent entry from regions VS considers affected with CEM. After completing Federal import quarantine, sexually intact horses over seven hundred and thirty-one (731) days of age must be tested for CEM in an approved facility supervised by State or Federal authorities prior to release for entry to the United States.

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- 2) APHIS delegates authority to U.S. SAHOs to carry out certain CEM program responsibilities in accordance with [9 CFR 93.301](#) and this guidance. The responsibilities of both parties are described in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (see Appendix 1).
  - 3) Each State participating in testing of imported horses under the CEM program at approved quarantine facilities must identify a State CEM Coordinator. VS designates a National CEM Coordinator who relays updates and other communications concerning CEM import testing to State CEM Coordinators.
  - 4) *T. equigenitalis* is a fastidious organism and adherence to sampling protocols is necessary to reduce the risk of false negative results. Testing methodology is a series of bacterial cultures, using samples obtained from various anatomical sites depending on gender, and by serological testing of mares using a complement fixation test (CFT) for CEM antibodies.
  - 5) An accredited veterinarian, State veterinarian, or a VS veterinarian must collect test samples and monitor test breeding and treatments. When an accredited veterinarian performs the treatments, a SAHO or VS official must observe at least one (1) treatment during the five (5)-day treatment period.
  - 6) To avoid false negative culture results, the horses must not be treated with antibiotics or disinfectants while undergoing *T. equigenitalis* testing.
    - a. If a horse requires systemic antibiotic treatment, a minimum of seven (7)-days must elapse between the last systemic treatment and an initial CEM culture.
    - b. If a horse receives topical antibiotic or disinfectant treatment of the external genitalia, a minimum of twenty-one (21) days must elapse between the last topical treatment and an initial CEM culture test.
- B. Procedures for Approval of CEM Testing Facilities

A facility must meet the following minimum requirements for approval as described in this VSG to quarantine and treat imported horses for CEM. Individual States may institute additional standards for approval and inspection of facilities.

- 1) A facility must be approved before horses may be placed for CEM quarantine.
- 2) The State is responsible for inspecting and approving proposed quarantine facilities using the facility inspection report form in Appendix 2 or equivalent. CEM quarantine facilities must meet all requirements listed in this VSG and on the inspection report form prior to approval. Any requested deviation from these requirements must be authorized by both the State and National CEM Coordinators.

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- 3) The State CEM Coordinator must notify the National CEM Coordinator within ten (10) days of approving a facility, provide the completed facility inspection report form, and indicate the anticipated duration of the approval.
    - a. The National CEM Coordinator reviews the inspection report form, notes any concerns, and addresses them with the State CEM Coordinator.
    - b. The facility may lose approval if it does not give the inspection report to the National CEM Coordinator within ten (10) days or address the Coordinator's concerns in a timely manner.
  - 4) Each State CEM Coordinator maintains a list of currently approved facilities and makes that list available to the National CEM Coordinator upon request.
  - 5) The State CEM Coordinator must immediately notify the National CEM Coordinator when the State cancels the approval of a CEM facility for any reason.
- C. Procedure for Reapproval of CEM Testing Facilities
- 1) Each State may determine the duration of approval of CEM quarantine facilities within that State; however, State personnel must inspect and re-approve active facilities at least every 365 days. States may elect to inspect and re-approve a facility each time horses are placed for quarantine.
  - 2) The State CEM Coordinator is responsible for coordinating re-approval of quarantine facilities with the National CEM Coordinator as per 6.B.3).
- D. Facility Construction, Sanitation, and Security
- 1) The CEM quarantine facility must be an enclosed, sound, permanent building with surfaces (walls, floors, and ceilings) able to withstand frequent and effective cleaning and disinfection without deteriorating.
  - 2) The facility must contain stalls where individual imported horses can be separated from each other, either by an empty stall, an empty area where horses cannot touch each other, or by a solid wall that is at least eight (8) feet (2.4 m) high.
  - 3) The facility must provide separation and isolation from other horses and common traffic.
  - 4) No physical contact may occur between horses in CEM import quarantine.
  - 5) The owner may house test mares in a secure temporary stabling structure on the same premises as the facility if the structure can be effectively cleaned and disinfected.

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- a. Test mares housed in a secure temporary stabling structure may be commingled if the mares are not being used for test breeding and remain on the same premises as the CEM quarantine facility.
  - b. Test mares must remain in the CEM quarantine facility while being used for test breeding until they meet all release requirements.
- 6) All entrances to the facility must clearly identify it as a quarantine area. Access to the facility must be limited to authorized personnel.
  - 7) The facility must be large enough to accommodate the maximum number of horses indicated in the quarantine facility inspection report form.
  - 8) The facility must be secure so that horses cannot escape or be removed without authorization and to prevent other animals from entering.
  - 9) Drainage from the facility must not flow into parts of the premises containing other horses.
  - 10) During the quarantine period, all equipment used for feeding, watering, grooming, and cleaning must remain in the quarantine area and use limited only to the animals in quarantine.
  - 11) After each culture or treatment, personnel must place all gloves, sleeves, speculums, and other disposable material in plastic garbage bags to be disposed of through incineration or burial. These materials may alternatively be stored until the quarantine is released (providing that all culture results are negative), when they may be disposed of as domestic waste.
  - 12) The facility must be available to attending accredited veterinarians and State and VS personnel at any time necessary to conduct required testing or observe quarantine.
  - 13) State or VS personnel must oversee horse owners and grooms in the quarantine area. All visitors must sign a visitor log on entry to the quarantine area. No pets may enter the quarantine area.
  - 14) All horses under CEM quarantine must remain in the facility until released by a SAHO.
- E. Quarantine and Biosecurity for Imported Horses
- 1) Quarantined horses must always be segregated.
    - a. Quarantined horses may be exercised in arenas or turned out into paddock areas separated from all other horses, maintaining the “no physical contact” requirement with quarantined and non-quarantined horses.
    - b. Do not share grooming, cleaning supplies, or tack between quarantined and non-quarantined horses.

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- 2) Do not breed, collect samples from, or subject horses under quarantine to genital examination or cleaning beyond what is required for CEM testing and treatment as detailed in section 6.F.
- 3) Fomites, especially contaminated reproductive equipment and contaminated artificial insemination equipment can transmit *T. equigenitalis*.
  - a. Use separate buckets, brushes, sponges, tack, etc., for each horse under quarantine.
  - b. Personnel must clean and disinfect all reusable equipment between quarantines.
- 4) If an imported mare foals or aborts prior to completing CEM testing, personnel should consider placental tissue, fetal membranes, and amniotic fluid as potential sources of *T. equigenitalis* transmission.
  - a. These materials, along with soiled bedding and any other potentially contaminated materials from foaling, should be properly disposed of by burial, incineration, or composting to minimize any risk of *T. equigenitalis* transmission.
  - b. Otherwise-soiled bedding and manure from the quarantine do not pose a risk for infection and can be disposed of as domestic waste as per standard practices for the facility.
- 5) Any horse found to be positive for *T. equigenitalis* on any of the testing performed (serology or culture) must remain in quarantine for additional treatment and testing until the horse tests negative for *T. equigenitalis*. The positive horse could be re-exported before quarantine ends with the consent of the competent authority of the country of destination. The horse must be transported under official seal directly from the quarantine facility to the port of exit.

### F. Procedures for Imported Mares

NOTE: To exempt an imported mare in foal from the final cervical or endometrial culture, the owner or person transporting the mare must have an original letter signed by the examining veterinarian in the country of origin or a U.S. accredited veterinarian confirming that the mare is in foal and the approximate breeding date.

- 1) Arrival: Collect a serum sample and submit to an approved laboratory for CFT (see Section K for additional guidance).
- 2) Culture sample collection.
  - a. Culture the mare three (3) separate times during a twelve (12)-day period with at least seventy-two (72) hours between culture sets from the clitoral sinuses (use one (1) small diameter (approximately 2 mm tip) swab for the three (3) sinuses and separate swabs for the clitoral fossa). If the mare is not pregnant, the last set

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of culture samples must include a distal cervix or endometrium swab using a guarded uterine swab.

1. Do not scrub or use soap, disinfectant, or mild detergent on the sample sites before taking clitoral sinus or fossa swabs.
  2. Use dry cleanup or minimal water if necessary to remove excess organic debris.
  3. After collecting the third set of swabs from the clitoral sinuses and fossa, the external genitalia may be scrubbed using soap, disinfectant, or mild detergent before swabbing the distal cervix or endometrium.
  4. Submit culture samples to an approved laboratory as per Section K.
- b. If the mare requires medical treatment with antibiotics at any time during this twelve (12)-day culturing period, the mare must first complete the medical treatment and then restart the twelve (12)-day culturing period adhering to guidance in section 6.F.3) of this document.
- c. For non-pregnant mares, include a swab of the distal cervix or endometrium with the third culture set.
1. Use one (1) swab for the three (3) sinuses and separate swabs for the clitoral fossa and the cervix or endometrium.
  2. Pregnant mares do not need to have the distal cervix or endometrium cultured.
- 3) CEM treatment

NOTE: VS strongly recommends delaying the treatment described in this section until you obtain negative culture results from the laboratory.

- a. Plating and culture incubation of *T. equigenitalis* takes a minimum of seven (7) days. If a laboratory reports it is unable to perform a culture (e.g., overgrowth on the plate<sup>1</sup> or delayed arrival of samples to the lab), then the mare will need to be re-cultured. If antibiotic or disinfectant treatment has already begun, then twenty-one (21) days must elapse from the end of treatment until the mare can be re-cultured.
- b. Imported mares are treated for five (5) consecutive days. A delay will occur if it is necessary to repeat culturing or if there is overgrowth that requires treatment.
- c. First day of CEM treatment (prophylactic and clinical) procedures:

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<sup>1</sup> Approved State laboratories or NVSL report bacterial overgrowth occurrences resulting from *Pseudomonas*, *Proteus*, etc. to both the SAHO and National CEM coordinator, who address the occurrences case by case.

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1. Infuse the clitoral sinuses with a small volume of a cerumenolytic agent, such as hydrogen peroxide or sodium bicarbonate, using either a curved tip 12-cc syringe or a syringe attached to a disposable 1-1/3" plastic teat infusion cannula.
  2. Alternatively, bathe the clitoral area with the cerumenolytic agent and infuse the sinuses using digital manipulation. The difficulty you encounter in softening the smegma ("bean") or other debris sufficiently for removal as described below will determine the amount of cerumenolytic agent required.
  3. Express the smegma from the central sinus of the clitoris by grasping the clitoris between the thumb and forefinger and gently squeezing, while simultaneously pulling down and out. This method should displace the frenulum sufficiently to allow access to the central sinus.
  4. Flush the sinuses with a small volume (e.g., 5.0-10.0 ml) of at least two percent (2%) chlorhexidine scrub solution to remove all residual smegma and cerumenolytic agent.
  5. Following flushing, clean and scrub the clitoral sinuses and clitoral fossa area using two percent (2%) or greater chlorhexidine scrub solution. Rinse the scrubbed areas.
  6. After cleaning and rinsing, infuse the sinuses with an antibiotic ointment effective against *T. equigenitalis*, such as silver sulfadiazine or 0.2 percent (0.2%) nitrofurazone. Personnel can accomplish infusion by working the ointment into the sinuses by hand.
  7. After infusing the sinuses, coat the entire clitoral area, sinuses, and fossa with the antibiotic ointment.
- d. Days two (2) to five (5) of treatment:
1. Clean and scrub the clitoral sinuses and clitoral fossa area using at least two percent (2%) chlorhexidine scrub solution. Rinse the scrubbed areas.
  2. After cleaning and rinsing, infuse the sinuses with an antibiotic ointment effective against *T. equigenitalis*, such as silver sulfadiazine or 0.2 percent (0.2%) nitrofurazone. Personnel can accomplish infusion by working the ointment into the sinuses by hand.
  3. After infusing the sinuses, coat the entire clitoral area, sinuses, and fossa with the antibiotic ointment.
  4. Systemic and/or intrauterine antibiotics are not required, but the attending veterinarian, in consultation with regulatory officials, may authorize their use with topical treatment.

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4) Release

The SAHO may release the mare from quarantine if all cultures and CFT results are negative, five (5) days of wash and pack are completed, and no further treatment is required. If the CFT or any culture results are positive, the mare must be treated and re-cultured according to sections 6.F.2) through 6.F.3) of this document before release.

G. Procedure for Imported Mares Positive for *T. equigenitalis*

- 1) A mare is positive for *T. equigenitalis* when the CFT **or** culture results are positive.
- 2) Treat the mare as described in section 6.F.3) of this document.
- 3) No sooner than twenty-one (21) days after the last topical or intrauterine treatment, repeat three (3) sets of cultures on the mare as described in section 6.F.2).
- 4) If all culture sets are negative, perform treatment as described in section 6.F.3) of this document, then release the mare following re-treatment. Repeat of CFT testing is not required for release.
- 5) A positive mare must remain in quarantine until the mare is treated and culture negative for *T. equigenitalis*.

H. Procedures for Imported Stallions

- 1) On arrival collect one (1) set of culture specimens from the stallion, ensuring samples arrive at the laboratory within forty-eight (48) hours from the time of culture collection.
  - a. Collect samples from the shaft of penis and prepuce, urethral sinus, fossa glandis, and distal urethra using a separate swab for each of these four (4) sites.
  - b. If necessary, clean swab sites with cotton and plain water to remove excess organic debris.
  - c. Do not scrub or use soap, disinfectant, or mild detergent cleaners on the sample sites prior to swabbing.
  - d. Submit samples to an approved laboratory as per Section K.
- 2) CEM culture results, test breeding, and treatment
  - a. Plating and culture incubation of *T. equigenitalis* takes a minimum of seven (7) days.
  - b. If the culture results are negative, proceed to breed two (2) qualified test mares (see section 6.J of this document).

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- c. If a stallion is determined to be positive at any time during the process, suspend further testing and initiate treatment without test breeding mares (see section 6.F of this document).
  - d. Test breeding
    1. Do not begin test breeding until negative culture results return for the imported stallion. After obtaining negative culture results, test breed stallion to two (2) qualified test mares (6.J).
    2. Do not clean the external genitalia prior to or during testing since cleaning may lead to false negative culture results.
    3. Do not scrub or use soap, disinfectant, or detergent cleaners on the test mare or the stallion prior to breeding.
    4. Test breeding consists of live cover of two (2) qualified mares (see section 6.H of this document). The goal is to maximize contact time between the external genitalia of the stallion and the mare. At a minimum, each test mare must experience at least two (2) complete penetrations from the stallion, at least one of which must result in ejaculation. Complete penetration means full insertion of the shaft of the penis into the vaginal vault of the mare.
    5. The State is responsible for ensuring adequate oversight of test breeding.
  - e. Treatment
    1. After completing both test breedings, the stallion's prepuce, penis, fossa glandis, and urethral sinus must be thoroughly scrubbed with a cleansing agent such as two percent (2%) chlorohexidine while the stallion is in full erection (or using sedation to allow for exteriorization of the penis) once a day for five (5) consecutive days.
    2. After each cleaning, coat the penis, prepuce, and sheath with an antibiotic ointment effective against *T. equigenitalis*, such as silver sulfadiazine or 0.2 percent (0.2%) nitrofurazone, once a day for five (5) consecutive days.
    3. Systemic antibiotics may be used with topical treatment at the discretion of the attending accredited or regulatory veterinarian.
- 3) Post-breeding testing of test mares
- a. Begin culture testing of test mares on the third day post breeding. For the purposes of this section, the day after the date of breeding is considered the first day post breeding.
  - b. Culture the mare three (3) separate times during a twelve (12)-day period with at least seventy-two (72) hours between culture sets from the clitoral sinuses (one

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(1) small diameter (approximately 2mm tip) swab for three (3) sinuses) and clitoral fossa (one (1) swab). Swab the clitoral fossa as well as the distal cervix or endometrium.

- c. Refer to section 6.K of this document for complete culture sample collection procedures.
- d. Collect and submit a serum sample for CFT from test mares between days twenty-one (21) and twenty-eight (28) post breeding (6.K).

### 4) Release of import stallions

The SAHO may release a stallion from quarantine once it meets all the following requirements:

- a. The stallion is negative on the pre-breeding culture set.
- b. Post-breeding diagnostic tests are negative on the two (2) qualified test mares (CFT and all post-breeding cultures).
- c. The stallion has completed treatment.

### 5) Release of test mares

- a. Test mares must remain in quarantine until negative results return for all tests for both test mares.
- b. If a test mare is confirmed positive on CFT or culture during post-breeding testing, treat and re-culture both test mares associated with the test breeding in accordance with section 6.J.

## I. Procedures for Stallions Positive for *T. equigenitalis*

- 1) A stallion is positive for *T. equigenitalis* if any of the testing performed returns positive: Culturing of stallion, post breeding cultures of test mares, or post breeding CFT of test mares. An infected stallion must remain in quarantine until the stallion is treated and retested negative for *T. equigenitalis*.
- 2) Treat positive stallions according to Section 6.H.2) e.
- 3) After treatment, retest by culture according to Section 6.H.1) no fewer than twenty-one (21) days after the last day of topical antibiotic treatment, and no fewer than seven (7) days after systemic antibiotic treatment.
- 4) If cultures are again negative, test breed the stallion according to Section 6.H.2) and post-breeding test the test mares according to Section 6.H.3).

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- 5) For any positive stallions, repeat the culture, test mare breeding and testing, and treatment process until the stallion tests negative on all pre-breeding and test mare breeding cultures.

### J. Qualifying Test Mares

- 1) Test mares must test negative for *T. equigenitalis* by CFT and by culture before any test breeding to imported stallions. Follow the culture sample collection protocol in Section 6.F.2).
- 2) After completing the three (3) sets of cultures and determining the test mares are negative for *T. equigenitalis* by both culture and CFT, and before the mares are used for test breeding, they must be permanently identified with the capital letter "T" or other permanent identification approved by APHIS on a case-by-case basis. The letter "T" may be applied by hot branding, freeze branding, or lip tattooing, overseen by VS personnel, State authorities, or accredited veterinarians.
  - a. Apply brands on the left shoulder or left neck area, at least two (2) inches high.
  - b. Apply lip tattoos to the inside surface of the upper lip. They must be at least one (1) inch high and 0.75 inches wide.
- 3) Negative post-breeding cultures and CFTs within forty-five (45) days of initial blood draw on a test mare can serve as the qualifying tests making the mare eligible for use as a test mare again if the mare remains on the same premises as the CEM quarantine facility.
- 4) If a candidate test mare is positive on the CFT or cultures, this mare is considered positive for CEM and must be quarantined. Follow the procedures in Section 6.G. to release the mare from quarantine and requalify it.

### K. Sample Collection and Submission

NOTE: Refer to [VSG 15202](#) for additional guidance on specimen collection, identification, and transport.

- 1) Send all culture samples to a [laboratory approved to conduct CEM testing](#) within the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), or to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL). Send serum samples for CFT to NVSL, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, or the University of Kentucky at Lexington.
- 2) Place swabs in Amies transport medium with charcoal (each swab in a single tube) and refrigerate.
- 3) The swabs that come in the Amies sample collection tubes are adequate to collect stallion samples and clitoral fossa samples from mares but are too large for clitoral sinuses of mares. Cut off and discard the large swab from the tube cap and swab the sinuses with a small diameter swab, put the swab in the Amies, and replace the cap.

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- 4) Specimens must include equine identification, collection date and time, and anatomical sites of sample collected.
  - 5) Submit completed specimen submission forms with the name, address, and phone/fax number of the submitting veterinarian, name of the owner or person responsible for the horse, location of horse, complete animal identification, anatomical location sampled, and date and time of collection.
  - 6) Swabs must be shipped with ice packs to keep the specimens cold (4°C) on arrival. Use a commercial overnight service provider (Federal Express, United Parcel Service, etc.) or an approved third-party courier (as identified by the State CEM Coordinator) to ship the samples to the VS-approved CEM diagnostic laboratory.
  - 7) **All samples must reach the lab and be plated within forty-eight (48) hours after collection.** If the samples arrive more than forty-eight (48) hours after collection, the laboratory must notify the facility to repeat the cultures.
  - 8) NVSL must confirm all suspect samples. Approved CEM laboratories should send a swab of suspect *T. equigenitalis* colonies to NVSL in Amies media with charcoal. If suspect colonies are noted on multiple anatomical locations from the same set of swabs, send a suspect colony from each location in individual Amies media. Do not send the original swabs to NVSL.
  - 9) Specimens shipped to NVSL should be addressed to:  
  
National Veterinary Services Laboratories,  
Diagnostic Bacteriology Pathology Laboratory (DBPL)  
1920 Dayton Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010
- L. Communications, Recordkeeping, and CEM Database
- 1) The State and National CEM Coordinators will abide by all provisions for communications on approval of CEM quarantine facilities in Section 6.B.
  - 2) The State CEM Coordinators will use a CEM Quarantine Tracking Spreadsheet provided by the National CEM Coordinator to capture testing and other information pertinent to imported stallions and mares in CEM quarantine facilities. The State CEM coordinator must email the completed spreadsheet monthly to [VS.CEM.Data@usda.gov](mailto:VS.CEM.Data@usda.gov) for entry into a national CEM database.
  - 3) The National CEM Coordinator reviews the tracking spreadsheet data monthly to ensure compliance with testing and treatment protocols. When the National CEM Coordinator detects a discrepancy, they notify the State CEM Coordinator.

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- 4) The National CEM Coordinator reviews all State CEM data and provides a quarterly summary report of CEM import data to State CEM Coordinators to review for accuracy.
- 5) The State CEM Coordinators must retain identification and horse treatment and release records of CEM quarantine facilities for at least seven (7) years.
- 6) The State CEM Coordinators will send copies of release records to the VS Animal Import Center or Port Services Office at the port of entry electronically (email addresses listed below) so office staff is aware of horses departing CEM State quarantine facilities.
- 7) If a horse tests positive for CEM while in quarantine, the State CEM Coordinator will notify the National CEM Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours via [VS.CEM.Data@usda.gov](mailto:VS.CEM.Data@usda.gov).

### 7. Inquiries

- A. Ask the National CEM Coordinator for information about the national CEM database by emailing [VS.CEM.Data@usda.gov](mailto:VS.CEM.Data@usda.gov).
- B. Contact the office for the relative port of entry.

Port of Entry with Email Addresses:

New York: [VSPSNIC@usda.gov](mailto:VSPSNIC@usda.gov)

Miami: [notifymaic@usda.gov](mailto:notifymaic@usda.gov)

Chicago: [VSDesPlaines@usda.gov](mailto:VSDesPlaines@usda.gov)

Los Angeles: [VSPLAX@usda.gov](mailto:VSPLAX@usda.gov)

Puerto Rico: [Collateral.Port.Offices@usda.gov](mailto:Collateral.Port.Offices@usda.gov)

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Appendix I: EXAMPLE Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

State Contagious Equine Metritis Testing

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ (COOPERATOR) AND

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION  
SERVICE (APHIS) VETERINARY SERVICES

ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE

This MOU establishes the responsibilities of the Cooperating State in carrying out testing and treatment of horses imported into the United States from countries or regions affected with contagious equine metritis (CEM). CEM is a venereal disease of equines and is foreign to the United States. Horses subject to CEM regulations must remain under State quarantine until completing all required testing and treatment.

ARTICLE 2 - BACKGROUND

To be permanently imported into the United States, stallions and mares over 731 days of age from CEM-affected countries must test negative for CEM and be treated, in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301. Any State wishing to participate in CEM testing must enter into a written agreement with the APHIS Administrator that the State will conduct testing and treatment as specified in 9 CFR 93.301 and VS Guidance 13406.3, Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Testing for Imported Horses at Approved Quarantine Facilities.

ARTICLE 3 - AUTHORITIES

Under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, PL 107-171, Subtitle E, Animal Health Protection, Section 10401-10418 [subsequently the Animal Health Protection Act, 7 U.S.C. 8301 et. seq.], the Secretary of Agriculture, to protect the agriculture, environment, economy, and health and welfare of the people of the United States by preventing, detecting, controlling, and eradicating diseases and pests of animals, is authorized to cooperate with foreign countries, States, and other jurisdictions, or other persons, to prevent and eliminate burdens on interstate commerce and foreign commerce, and to regulate effectively interstate commerce and foreign commerce.

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**ARTICLE 4 - MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Cooperator and APHIS mutually agree to designate, in writing, an authorized representative for each party who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted under this MOU.

**ARTICLE 5 - COOPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. The State has entered into this written agreement with the Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture or his or her designee, whereby the State agrees to enforce its laws and regulations to control CEM and to abide by the conditions of approval established by the regulations in Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR) Section 93.301.
- b. The State agrees that stallions and mares shall be quarantined under State or Federal supervision until testing and treatment requirements have been met in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301(e)(2).
- c. The State agrees to quarantine all stallions and mares over 731 days of age imported under 9 CFR 93.301 until the stallions have been treated in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301(e)(3) and the mares have been treated in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301(e)(5).
- d. The State agrees to quarantine all mares used to test stallions for CEM until the mares have been released from quarantine in accordance with 9 CFR 93.301(e)(4).
- e. The State has laws or regulations requiring that stallions over 731 days of age imported under 9 CFR 93.301(e) be treated in the manner specified in 9 CFR 93.301(e)(3), and that mares over 731 days of age imported under paragraph 9 CFR 93.301(e) be treated in the manner specified in 9 CFR 93.301(e)(5).
- f. The Administrator may suspend a State's approval to receive stallions or mares imported from regions affected with CEM if they determine that the State is not meeting the requirements of 9 CFR 93.301. After the Administrator takes such action, APHIS will inform the State's animal health authorities of the reasons for the action and afford them an opportunity to present their views before APHIS finalizes the suspension; however, such suspension of approval shall continue in effect unless the Administrator orders otherwise. In those instances where there is a disagreement as to the facts, a hearing shall be held to resolve such disagreements.
- g. The proposed CEM quarantine facility will be inspected and/or reinspected and approved by a State or Federal official based on provisions established by the State Veterinarian and APHIS. Facility inspection and approvals will be renewed at least annually as the State Veterinarian or APHIS deems necessary. Quarantine facilities must meet all requirements listed in VSG 13406 and on the inspection report form prior to approval. Any requested deviation from these requirements must be authorized by both the State and National

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- CEM Coordinators. Failure to provide the inspection report to the National CEM Coordinator within 10 days or to adequately address their concerns in a timely manner may result in the facility losing approval. Each State may determine the duration of approval of CEM quarantine facilities within that State if State personnel inspect and re-approve active facilities at least annually. States may elect to inspect and re-approve a facility each time horses are placed for quarantine. The State CEM Coordinator is responsible for coordinating re-approval of quarantine facilities with the National CEM Coordinator.
- h. The State CEM Coordinators will use a CEM quarantine tracking spreadsheet provided by the National CEM Coordinator to capture testing and other information pertinent to imported stallions and mares in CEM quarantine facilities. The National CEM Coordinator reviews the tracking spreadsheet data monthly (including number of horses in quarantine and positive cases, if any) to ensure compliance with testing and treatment protocols. When the National CEM Coordinator detects a discrepancy, he or she notifies the State CEM Coordinator.
  - i. The collection of blood samples, culture specimens, and CEM treatment will be performed by a veterinarian who is accredited in the State of the CEM quarantine facility and approved by the State CEM coordinator. Specimen collections, test breeding, and/or treatments will be monitored by a State or Federal official.
  - j. All blood samples and culture specimens will be collected at the appropriate sampling frequency and delivered to the appropriate APHIS-approved testing laboratory to conduct CEM testing following the procedures specified in 9 CFR 93.301.
  - k. If the State wishes to withdraw its approval to conduct CEM quarantine and testing of horses imported from countries affected with CEM, the State Veterinarian may submit this request in writing to APHIS.

### **ARTICLE 6 - STATEMENT OF NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION**

Signature of this MOU does not constitute a financial obligation on the part of APHIS. Each signatory party is to use and manage its own funds in carrying out the purpose of this MOU. Transfers of funds or items of value are not authorized under this MOU.

### **ARTICLE 7 - LIMITATIONS OF COMMITMENT**

This MOU and any continuation thereof shall be contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the Congress of the United States. It is understood and agreed that any monies allocated for purposes covered by this MOU shall be expended in accordance with its terms and the manner prescribed by the fiscal regulations and/or administrative policies of the party making the funds available. If fiscal resources are to transfer, a separate agreement must be developed by the parties.

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**ARTICLE 8 - CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTION**

Under 41 USC 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of the MOU or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

**ARTICLE 9 – NONDISCRIMINATION CLAUSE**

The United States Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.

**ARTICLE 10 - LIABILITIES**

APHIS assumes no liability for any actions or activities conducted under this agreement except to the extent the recourse or remedies are provided by Congress under the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 1346(b), 2401(b), 2671-2680).

**ARTICLE 11 - AMENDMENTS**

This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties in writing.

**ARTICLE 12 - TERMINATION**

This MOU may be terminated at any time by mutual agreement of the parties in writing, or by either party upon 60 days’ written notice to the other party.

**ARTICLE 13 - EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION**

This MOU will be in effect upon date of final signature and shall remain in effect for 5 years.

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Veterinary Official

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
National CEM Coordinator

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Appendix 2: CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS (CEM) QUARANTINE FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT FORM

NAME OF OWNER/OPERATOR OF PREMISES	STATE ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICIAL (SAHO) SERVING AS STATE CEM COORDINATOR
STREET ADDRESS	STREET ADDRESS
CITY      STATE      ZIP	CITY      STATE      ZIP
TELEPHONE NUMBER	TELEPHONE NUMBER
MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER	MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER
EMAIL	EMAIL

Describe facility being inspected (attach map of facility or floor plan of barn if available):

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Facility can accommodate (maximum number) \_\_\_\_\_ horses.

Facility is approved to house: Mares / Stallions / Both

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	YES	NO
1. The facility owner, operator (if different), and attending personnel have read and agree to carry out the provisions in Title 9, <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> (9 CFR) 93.301 and the recommendations in VS Guidance 13406 that pertain to the quarantine of horses from CEM-affected regions or countries.		
2. The facility includes a separate enclosed building or separate area of the building of sound permanent construction, capable of being effectively cleaned and disinfected.		
3. The quarantine area is clearly identified by posted signs.		
4. The facility is large enough to accommodate all animals involved in the quarantine.		
5. The facility contains stalls where individual horses can be kept separate from each other by either an empty stall, an empty area where horses cannot touch each other, or by a solid wall that is at least 8 feet (2.4 m) high. The facility provides isolation from other horses and common traffic. Nose-to-nose contact does not occur.		
6. The facility is secure so that horses may not escape or be removed from the facility without authorization and to prevent other animals or unauthorized personnel from entering.		
7. The facility has an adequate drainage setup so that discharge shall not flow into areas where other horses are being maintained.		
8. The facility can dispose of manure, bedding, waste, and any related shipping materials in a manner that will prevent the dissemination of disease and that is approved by a SAHO.		
9. During the quarantine period, the facility will keep all equipment used for feeding, watering, grooming, and cleaning in the quarantine area. Use of the equipment will be limited to the animals in quarantine.		
10. After each culture or treatment, the facility can place all gloves, sleeves, speculums, and other disposable material in plastic garbage bags and dispose of them as regulated garbage through incineration or burial. Alternatively, the facility can store these materials until the quarantine is released, when (if all cultures are negative), they may be disposed of as non-regulated garbage.		

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<p>11. The facility will not permit pets in the quarantine area. Horse owners and visitors must be authorized by State or APHIS personnel to enter the quarantine area. Authorized visitors are to sign a logbook upon entering and exiting the quarantine area.</p>		
<p>12. The facility agrees that all horses under CEM quarantine must remain in the facility until released by a SAHO. Horses under CEM quarantine may be moved under permit for emergency medical care.</p>		
<p>13. The facility can keep horses separated at all times; see #5 for details. Grooming and cleaning supplies and tack are not shared.</p>		
<p>14. The facility agrees that horses under quarantine will not be bred, collected, or subjected to genital examination or cleaning beyond what is required for CEM testing as detailed in the VS Guidance 13406.</p>		
<p>15. The facility uses separate buckets, brushes, sponges, tack, etc., for each horse under quarantine unless the equipment is cleaned and disinfected between each horse as approved by the SAHO. All reusable equipment is cleaned and disinfected between quarantines.</p>		
<p>16. The facility has adequate food, water, and shelter for all horses being tested/treated in the CEM quarantine facility.</p>		
<p>17. The facility has sufficient protective clothing (disposable gloves, at a minimum) available for all facility personnel at the entrance of the CEM quarantine facility.</p>		
<p>18. The facility has footbath containers at the entrance and exit of the facility or rubber boots or disposable plastic shoe covers to be worn within the facility.</p>		
<p>19. The facility has a supply of disinfectant approved by the SAHO to apply to all fixed and movable surfaces and equipment exposed to the quarantined animal prior to use.</p>		
<p>21. The facility personnel know the appropriate restricted physical contact between horses in the quarantine facility. Personnel will not share daily care equipment between horses.</p>		
<p>22. The facility agrees to oversee the cleaning and disinfection by horse transport personnel of all trailers with an approved disinfectant before leaving the premises when any transportation of CEM quarantined horses occurs as required by VS Form 1-27 (if item 16 is marked "Yes" by the form preparer).</p>		
<p>23. Additional State facility checklist items (attached).</p>		

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Entrance to this facility shall be granted to personnel authorized by the SAHO or USDA/APHIS official at any time necessary to inspect the premises or to observe required testing.

Print - Owner/Operator of Facility	Print - State or Federal Official Conducting Inspection
Signature – Owner/Operator of Facility	Signature – State or Federal Official Conducting Inspection
Date	Date